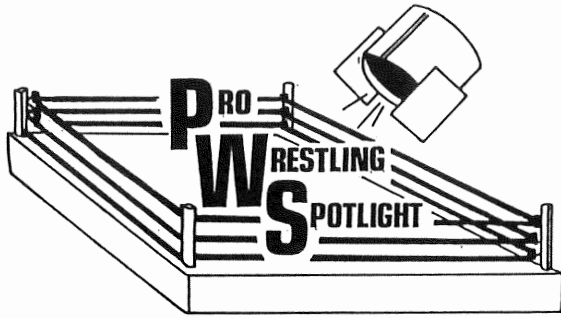




WEEK

NEXT WEEK IS YOUR
LAST ISSUE...
RENEW NOW!!

MARCH 2, 1992

VOLUME I, NO. 8

\$1.50

HULK "REAL AMERICAN" HOGAN HEADED TO JAPAN?

by JOHN AREZZI



The hottest rumor circulating all week revolves around Hulk Hogan and New Japan pro wrestling. It has been reported that Antonio Inoki is offering the Hoaxster \$100,000 a show, for 6 shows in 1992. Hogan would work this year's Wrestlemania and then it would be Sayonara WWF and USA. With all the heat surrounding Hogan, and the worst still to come, it just might be the best career move Hulk can make right now. The self imposed exile would give Hogan big dollars, a light work schedule, and the steroid issue is non-existent in Japan. The chances of Hogan leaving the U.S. are about 50-50 right now, **but**, those odds could rise dramatically with more negative press about to come out in several major U.S. newspapers, and of course, the 20/20 piece just a few weeks away.

**WWF
"PINNED" BY
DRUGS**

SEE PAGE 2

THE RUMOR MILL

The AWF will be taping some matches down in Puerto Rico by the time you read this. President Gordon Scozzarri tells **PWSW** that he is bringing Sunny Beach and Jeff Gaylord to the Caribbean and that they are a shoe-in to be the AWF tag champs. Paul Orndorff, the first AWS title holder, has left the organization. Scozzarri has crowned Stan Lane new AWF champ. The AWF is scheduled to have their next set of TV tapings in April, probably in Massachusetts. Gordon wants to compile 13 weeks of TV and sell the package to a cable network.

With all the negative publicity being generated about the business (and this issue has more than its share) one wonders what's next. Books, that's what. Davis Shults is in the process of putting a "tell all" book together, and now word comes that Barry O (Orton) is writing a book entitled "Doing the Job." Believe me, there will be others waiting in the wings, ready to tell all in the months to come.

Cactus Jack Baby Watch: Cactus and Colette will be blessed with a son by the time you receive this issue. We congratulate them and wish them nothing but the best...Don't be surprised to see Paul Orndorff pop up in WCW before too long. Close friends say Mr. Wonderful wants one more major run before calling it a career...Want to watch "hot TV". Check out the Global Wrestling Federation on ESPN most weekdays at 4pm EST. Since Eddie Gilbert took over as booker, the shows have been exciting. If you remember, pop a cassette in the VCR and set it for 4pm. Watch it for a week and you will be hooked...Speaking of Gilbert, his new bride, Madussa, suffered a hernia at a recent card in Philadelphia. She should be back in action by the time you read this...Buzz Sawyer (Bruce Woyan) did in fact pass away due to a drug O.D. Sawyer was cremated and his ashes spread at sea last Wednesday (February 12th). Sawyer was a very talented worker and one of the heaviest parties, which kept getting him fired from various promotions. At 33 years of age it is a shame that his life had to end this way...Kevin Sullivan and WOMAN tell **THE RUMOR MILL** a major announcement on their careers is forthcoming. You'll read it here **first**. Reports of Kevin's death have been "greatly exaggerated."

DRUGAMANIA'S RUNNING WILD!

by JOHN AREZZI

HULK HOGAN ACCUSED OF PAST COCAINE USE. Old news. **KERRY VON ERICH SCHEDULED FOR DRUG REHAB.** No surprise there. **MARTY JANNETTY ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES.** Hmmmm. **HAWK OF LEGION OF DOOM SUSPENDED FOR FAILING DRUG TEST.** What!? **OFFICERS UNDER DEA ORDERS BUST IN ON WWF IN ST. LOUIS.** Wow!!!

If all these headlines were spread out over a year, or even six months, you could handle them better. Every sport has its element of drug abusers. But, these headlines have all taken place within the past few weeks. The only thing that seems to be "running wild" here is **DRUGAMANIA**. What the hell is going on here? Is Titan Sports finally seriously cracking down on all drug abusers in the organization? Or, is the drug problem so out of

control that only federal intervention is going to put a stop to it. Both seem to be the case.

I was not surprised when I received the call informing me of the DEA bust at the WWF locker room in St. Louis. With all the allegations you hear week to week, the hammer has to fall. But, when the s__t hits the fan, as it did in St. Louis, you're still stunned none the less. So much is happening so fast you look at it as a proverbial avalanche running out of control. There have been three drug related suspensions (that we know of) in recent weeks. The discipline now being shown is like the old story of putting your finger in the dam too late before it bursts. One can only imagine the behind the scene atmosphere right now in Titan Sports. There must be a lot of paranoid people running scared.

We've mentioned in previous editorials, our hopes of Vince McMahon cleaning up the Federation. He might be trying to do just that. Many of the wrestlers on TV look smaller. And now, a crack down on substance abuse is being strongly implemented. But it could be too little, too late. Because, you see, the nation's media has caught a WWF bashing fever, and even the federal government is now involved. There are some rough weeks ahead in the WWF, to be sure. Upcoming major articles are due in San Diego (any day), Los Angeles (March), and, the 20/20 piece (March 13th) looms like a dark shadow blocking out whatever sunlight is left shining on Titan Towers.

We have been criticized for our reporting, being told we've been burying the WWF on the **Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Show** and in this publication. Believe me, I would much more enjoy talking about and reporting on Ric Flair's title reign, than on a federal agency with drug sniffing dogs invading the WWF's locker room. The company that has been ruling professional wrestling since 1984 has been slowly killing itself over that time period. And, that same company has been slowly turning the fans off as attendance figures show. It was the company who pushed the steroid monsters, and, rewarded them with giant dollars to match their size. It was the company who turned its head as the Good Dr. Zahorian was making millions selling drugs of all kinds to the athletes. It sickens me to know that there are more ugly stories coming that I must cover this month. I despise what this business has become. But, I'm here till the end, covering what must be covered, and, hoping that like the aftermath of a nuclear war, the smoke will clear, and new life will hopefully emerge.

When I first got involved with pro wrestling, covering the stories was always exciting. There was a scandal or two on occasion, but nothing like today. Today's scandals are out of control. The responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the head man in charge for tolerating what is now rocking the foundation of the towers erected by him. Law and order was needed long ago.

The WWF has characters which have preached lines like, "Justice will be served," and "Those who don't tow the line will be serving hard time." The men saying these quotes are placing fictional characters in their role as wrestlers. How ironic it is that these two sayings are coming so very close to being reality in your fantasy world.

DRUGAMANIA WEEK NEWS FLASHES

by JOHN AREZZI

DEA BUSTS WWF LOCKER ROOM



In an historic move, local St. Louis, Missouri police, under orders of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), busted into the WWF locker room Friday evening, February 14th with drug sniffing dogs in tow. They were in search of professional wrestlers possessing illegal drugs. Never before in the history of professional sports has a raid of this nature been conducted. Sources tell PWSW two of the wrestlers that were being looked for by the officers were not present during the search, which resulted in no arrests. Will more raids follow? Stay tuned!

KERRY VON ERICH ARRESTED IN TEXAS

Kerry Von Erich was arrested by law enforcement officers in Richardson, Texas early Saturday morning (February 15th) and booked on charges of forging a medical prescription. The charge is a misdemeanor. Von Erich was released after posting a small bond. Ironically, Kerry was supposed to have been in a drug rehab program when the arrest took place. Sad.

HAWK SUSPENDED

Hawk of Legion of Doom was reportedly suspended by Titan Sports for allegedly failing a drug test. The suspension is for six weeks. Initially, Animal, of LOD, was to be paired up with the Big Bossman until Hawk returned, but Animal has not been seen at any of the house shows. The Bushwackers have picked up all of the LOD's bookings in the WWF. The disappearance of Animal fuels speculation that LOD is quitting the Federation. It's no secret that the tag titles were taken from LOD sooner than scheduled. Something is going on here which we will try to bring to you in our next issue.

JANNETTY IN JAPAN

Marty Jannetty, arrested January 25th in Florida, for cocaine possession has resurfaced in Japan, wrestling for the SWS group. The SWS is the organization with the working arrangement with the WWF. It is unknown if the WWF will lift Jannetty's U.S. suspension when he returns.

WAIT--THERE'S MORE

As if the "Drugmania Week" news weren't enough, Barry O (Barry Orton) appeared this past Saturday night (February 15th) on Mike Tenay's Wrestling Insiders radio talk show broadcast on the Sports Entertainment Network, originating on KVEG radio in Las Vegas. He was talking about, among other things, homosexual harassment in the WWF. Orton, appearing with Alex Marvez of the **Miami Herald**, said that "without a doubt" wrestlers were being pushed in the WWF because of homosexual favors given to certain front officer personnel.

"It goes on a lot -- a lot," said Orton. "Let me begin by saying each citizen has their own choice about their sexual preference. Unwelcomed sexual advances of any type are wrong.

"I personally have passed up situations that were presented to me. It's real sad (that this goes on). The WWF is becoming overrun by the homosexual community. I was on the road with Terry Garvin (not the same person who currently wrestles for the GWF. Garvin is a Titan Sports VP). I had just broken up with a girl that I had been living with. A childhood sweetheart. Well for six hours, from Amarillo (Texas) to Albuquerque (New Mexico), Terry was begging me to let him perform a certain sexual act on me. I kept telling him 'You're a nice guy but that's not me.' I can tell the way he looks at me that he will never forget. Here's a guy who's never going to go to bat for me. Who knows, maybe today I'd be wearing the WWF belt."

KIP FREY APPEARS ON PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT RADIO HOUR

by JOHN AREZZI

WCW executive vice president K. Allen "Kip" Frey appeared on the February 17, 1992 edition of the **Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Hour**. It was Frey's very first appearance on a wrestling talk show. His cooperation was appreciated by the thousands of listeners, and his appearance prompted a 100% positive listener call-in response. Below are some highlights.

ON HIS SIGNING OF JESSIE "THE BODY" VENTURA -

"The first day I started working it seemed to me that there was one guy out there in the business who had no business being 'outside the business.' I called him the first day I got on the job, and he was very receptive, and very excited about getting involved. We really hit it off. He's going to be a great addition. Jessie will be with us for the next two years."

ON THE CHANGES IN WCW SYNDICATED SHOWS -

"One of the things that I dislike tremendously from our shows in the past is that we'd gone back to a one announcer format. It seemed that there was so much more entertainment value with a color commentator added. We'll be adding a second color person to all of our shows, in addition to a variety of other things. We'll be updating the look of all of our shows graphically. I personally am going to reformat a couple of them. They'll be a little bit different and they'll give the wrestling fans something they haven't had in the past. Teddy Long will

be working on one of our shows. We'll feel our way a long with him. We're just in the process of evaluating the others. We've got a couple of people within the organization who will be terrific, and people outside the organization I've been talking to and will be great also."

ON THE NEW WCW STEROID POLICY - "I've been really focusing on that from the first day I started. It's an issue I consider to be one of the most important in all of wrestling and one I've been struggling with for the correct approach. We're finishing it up. We do have the policy configured and ready to go. It will be out sometime during this current week. Just to give you a little detail about it -- there are a couple of ways I can go with this. One would be to do what some of our competitors did, which would make it kind of a police state and institute mandatory testing. What I'm trying to do is more progressive than that. I want to get the wrestlers to understand both the dangers of steroids, and maybe even as importantly, that world championship wrestling is going to promote people -- not because of their size -- but because of their wrestling skills. If I can accomplish a situation where people want to get off steroids -- a feeling that they don't need to be on them -- that will be better for everyone concerned. We have created a public service announcement done by our wrestlers, telling kids they don't have to take steroids -- that hard work is the way to achieve. Steroids are to be avoided."

ON A POSSIBLE FUTURE HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION PLAN FOR WCW WRESTLERS - "It's something I couldn't understand when I came in (why there wasn't coverage). I am working with a couple of brokers from New York right now to create a group health and benefit situation in which all the wrestlers could pool and realize the benefits of savings and health insurance. Part of the whole key to this is getting our steroid policy in place, and getting our voluntary enforcement going so that we can be more effective in getting an insurance plan for the guys."

ON INCREASED COSTS TO THE CONSUMER FOR PAY PER VIEW EVENTS AND ARENA SHOWS - "The decision to increase the cost for Pay Per View events (from \$19.95 to \$24.95) was made before I got here. I have already asked for a study on how we might cut back on these costs. I think there is probably a better way to get to our fans than charging them \$24.95. The other thing I'm doing is that I am working on cutting down our ticket prices in the arena as well."

ON THE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION - "I want to make sure I have a place for guys, both mentally and physically, when they come off steroids. If they've been juiced up so much, and they think they're going to look small, they can consider the light heavyweight division. The wrestling in that light heavyweight division is as exciting as any other. It's going to enhance our entire operation. From the point of view in our operation (steroids) is as much a problem in their wrestling minds as it is to their bodies. They have been conditioned to think that the only way they can be successful is to be these huge guys, and we have got to tell them and tell the fans that what we're interested in is putting on the best wrestling product that we can. You don't have to be huge to put on a great wrestling product."

ON WRESTLING NEWSLETTERS AND TALK SHOWS - "I think they're great for the business. I'm glad they're a part of the business. I think that my opinion is a bit different than my predecessor's (Jim Herd). I think that anything that creates fan interest is great. People need to have the freedom to print what they want to print. I don't think I should be in a position to try to control what anyone outside my organization writes."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

by VINCE RUSSO

I recently spoke to former WWF tag-team champion Dominick DeNucci. DeNucci had the distinction of holding the tag team titles with three different partners. Here's what he had to say.

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY: How did you get involved in professional wrestling?

DOMINICK DeNUCCI: Oh my God.

PWSW: That's what they all say.

DD: I came in from Europe, I went to Canada first, Montreal. At that time I was wrestling amateur, I was only 20 years old and was working too. It was very hard. Later as I gained some professional experience I began to move out. I was in Canada for about one year. I then went to Detroit.

PWSW: When did you start with the WWWF?

DD: November 25, 1968. I stayed with the WWF for 12-13 years.

PWSW: What year did you capture the tag-team titles with Victor Rivera?

DD: It was '70 something. We defeated the Valiant Brothers.

PWSW: Soon Victor Rivera left and Irish Pat Barrett became your tag team partner. Can you tell me about that?

DD: Yes. Victor left, he got an engagement with Pedro Martinez when the opposition was in. So he left because he got offered a better contract, better money, that's when Pat Barrett took over.

PWSW: Who did Pat Barrett and yourself lose the titles to?

DD: Blackjack Lanza and Blackjack Mulligan.

PWSW: Are there any matches or experiences that stand out in your mind during the WWWF years?

DD: Oh yes, when Victor and I wrestled the Valiant Brothers, and Fuji and Tanaka. When you win the title it's more exiting. I don't know if you prove anything though.

PWSW: Do you still keep in contact with Victor?

DD: I haven't spoken to Victor for the past three years. I lost contact with him in Los Angeles.

PWSW: When did you leave the WWWF?

DD: In February, 1982.

PWSW: Where did you go from there?

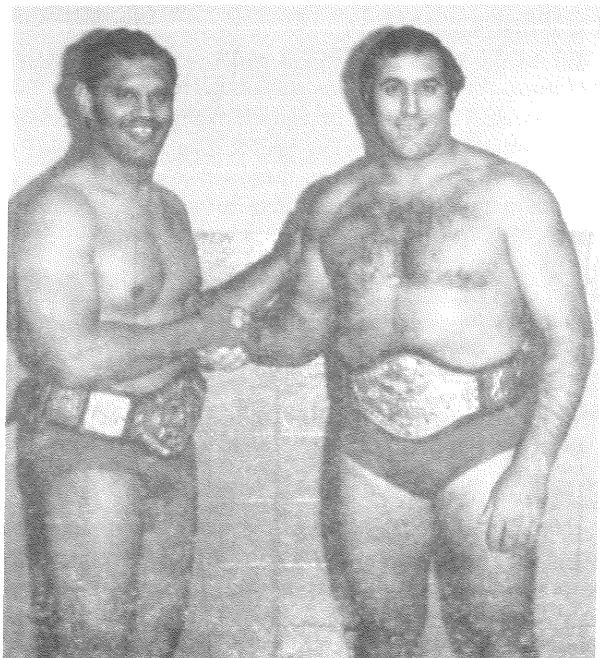
DD: Remember I was tag team partner with Dino Bravo too. We beat Fuji and Tanaka. You see, you forget things.

PWSW: So you held the tag team titles on two occasions with three different partners. That's probably the only time that's been done.

DD: Yes.

PWSW: Where did you go next?

DD: I think some independent work. I made a couple of



trips to Africa, two or three trips to Arabia, the Philippines. I went back to Japan one more time, then Rome, Italy.

PWSW: When was the last time you actively wrestled?

DD: Last year, July 22. In Cleveland, Ohio.

PWSW: You worked for Vince McMahon, Jr. for only a short period. How would you compare him to his father?

DD: He moved a different way. When his father got sick and he took over he did things completely different. With television, everything was more business-like. He was completely different from his father. Things changed immediately.

PWSW: Tell me about your wrestling school.

DD: I started it about 6 or 7 years ago. It's about 30 miles outside of Pittsburgh.

PWSW: I understand that Cactus Jack and Shane Douglas come out of your school.

DD: Yes.

PWSW: How does somebody make it as a professional wrestler. What makes a champion?

DD: Remember one thing -- not everybody can do it. I don't care how good they are, or how big they are, some people never make it. If guys train, gain experience, and have the guts to do it, they can do it.

PWSW: What is the one most important element to have in order to make it in professional wrestling?

DD: You have to be in top condition. You have to push yourself to do it. There's a lot of injuries. Every night you come with a different pain. You have to be right in your heart to do it. I know when I first started a few of the guys got hurt and then they quit. If you do that you can forget about it. I don't care how much they call this fake. When you are in that ring and your body starts bouncing around everywhere, your body has to be in top shape.

PWSW: How do you feel about the steroid issue.

DD: When I wrestled it wasn't like today. Only a few people were on them, like Billy Graham and a few other guys. Nobody knew about them.

PWSW: What do you tell your students about steroids?

DD: I tell them it's up to them. But taking drugs doesn't

make you a good wrestler.

PWSW: Once a wrestler makes it to the big leagues do you think there is pressure on him to take steroids in order to become bigger? Or can a guy make it on ability alone, and be able to compete with those on steroids who may be ten times his size?

DD: That's hard to say. Probably a lot of these guys themselves want to look better. I don't know if somebody puts pressure on him. It's hard to say.

PWSW: You were around when Billy Graham came in. How did the other wrestlers react to his steroid use?

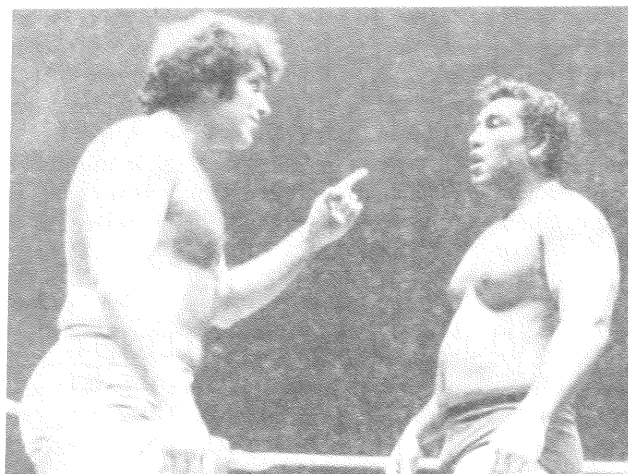
DD: We knew, but we didn't know what kind of a situation he was in. The guy was working hard, he was in the gym every day. He didn't take the drugs and just lie down. Every time we went to the gym he was there. Nobody questioned anything, it wasn't our business.

PWSW: Give me some information on your school for the readers out there.

DD: It's in Freedom, Pennsylvania. Obviously it's called The Dominick DeNucci School of Wrestling. The phone number is 412-775-0377.

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT CONTEST #2

Correctly identify the two wrestlers in this photo from the late 1970's and you will win a free set of autographed photos.



The first three readers (with the earliest postmark) will win. We will announce the winners in a future issue of **PWSW**.

Send your answers to:

**PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT CONTEST
99 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD
CORAM, NY 11727**

The winners of **PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT CONTEST #1** were:

RANDY BAKER - Fox Island, Washington
DAVID STEELE - Catasauqua, Pennsylvania
ANTHONY ARAGONA - Orlando, Florida

THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION

A Continuing Saga...

Just point me in the direction of a hot tub. It looks so easy on television and at the arenas. If it's so easy, why does my body feel like a ton of bricks fell on it? You want to become a professional wrestler? Forget it, it's hell. I give wrestlers all the credit in the world, every one of them.

I began early in the week by working out with Bo Davis at Gold's Gym in Port Jefferson, New York. This man curls 100 pounds -- with one arm. I don't think I could do it with two arms ... and two legs. This man is not human. He must eat nails for breakfast. His workouts are incredible, and to think he does this five times a week. After one workout I just wanted my mother. As Bo put it, "Johnny (Rodz) may know wrasslin, but Bo knows iron." I feel like both arms are dragging on the floor. But this is important. I am trying to develop a camaraderie between Bo and myself. I don't want to just do business with this man, I want to become his friend first. I want to show him that I'm there with him every step of the way.

On Thursday we went back to Johnny Rodz' School of Professional Wrestling at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. Johnny spends a good time talking about "the game." You have to have a real understanding for "the game" in order to be successful at it. You have to know how to work. Believe it or not, size and power don't mean anything here. You have to be able to take the bumps. You have to sell you opponent as well as yourself. I am learning things about this sport that I didn't think even existed.

We learned how to fall this week, backwards. Shoulders down, ass up. 20-30 times. Fall to the right, fall to the left. You can't imagine how awkward it feels to throw yourself back on the mat. Bo was getting into it, each time he looked better and better. A number of Johnny's students came over to assist us. In this school everybody helps each other. In the background I hear the "unpredictable one" yell, "Introductions everything is an introduction."

HOUSE SHOW SPOTLIGHT

NASSAU COLISEUM, UNIONDALE, NY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1992

by VINCE RUSSO

Somehow I knew this was going to be a long evening. Before a drop of sweat fell, the ring announcer explained to us that Earthquake, Ted DiBiase, and "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka were going to be absent from the card due to illness. Keep in mind that L.O.D. had already been replaced for reasons I'm sure we will hear about later.

To pay \$22.00 to see a card like this is a travesty. In fact, this may have been the worst card in the history of the Nassau Coliseum. I yawned so many times that my jaw bone began to ache. However, I was ecstatic to see that the Coliseum was half empty. Fans aren't as ignorant as Titan Sports think they are.

SKINNER VS. CHRIS WALKER - Skinner by DDT. Obviously somebody in the WWF doesn't like Chris. Why don't they put him over guys like Skinner? Every time I

see Walker wrestle I say the same thing. Let this kid win a few matches!

BIG BOSS MAN VS. REPO MAN - Big Boss Man by countout. This began our roll of awful matches. Repo Man would have been better off hiding in the dressing room rather than showing up for this match. Big Boss Man didn't take one bump during the entire encounter. Whipping that stick around just doesn't do it for me.

SHAWN MICHAELS VS. JIM POWERS - Shawn Michaels by pin.

Michaels is playing quite the heel role. He looks like he's really enjoying the attention. Sherri Martel acted so much in love I almost believed it. The wardrobe of the "Sensational One" seems to be getting skimpier and skimpier each week. I just couldn't wait for her to bend over at ringside. Unfortunately, she never did.

OWEN HART VS. BLAKE BEVERLY - Hart by small package pin.

Hart took the best bump of the night by coming off the top rope with a drop kick. However, neither one of these two wrestlers can carry a match.

HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN VS. TYPHOON - Hacksaw by pin after clocking Typhoon with a 2x4.

Why do the kids go crazy over this nut? I just can't understand it. Take away his thumb, his wood, and his flag, and all you have is an overweight man who can't wrestle. And how many times are we going to see the same ending? I'm sick of it! Take G.I. Joe and go home!

Side note: Not one bump during this match. Some of these guys need to go back to school.

Next came the highlight of the evening. My pretzel from the concession stand was so piping hot and doughy soft that I thought I was in heaven.

Now -- back to hell.

JIM NEIDHART VS. BEAU BEVERLY - Blake Beverly came off the top rope and pinned "Anvil" before the referee could notice.

My note pad is blank for this match -- that is how bad it was.

TITO SANTANA VS. BARBARIAN - "El Matador" rolled up the Barbarian from behind for the pin.

The Barbarian took a nice bump over the third rope, but that was about it.

RIC FLAIR VS. RODDY PIPER - Thank God! I made it through to the main event. This match offered 15 minutes of non-stop action. Flair took so many bumps that I lost count. Piper did more brawling than wrestling, but it was still quite enjoyable. Piper was disqualified after hitting Flair with the chair that the "Nature Boy" brought into the ring. The ending was predictable, but the match was solid.

Vince "the brain" McMahon, Jr. did it again. The crowd went home exuberant remembering the last match, and forgetting all those duds before it. This is what Junior wanted, and this is what Junior got. However Vince, in all your glory let's not forget one thing: **THE COLISEUM WAS HALF EMPTY!**

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TUBE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9 TO 15

WWF

Sid Justice viciously destroys the barber shop set. Justice wound up with a face full of shaving cream which I don't think was planned. It was hard to take Sid seriously as he put on his tough guy act while trying to wipe the shaving cream from his face.

Flair/Savage and Hogan/Justice matches for Wrestlemania VIII were finally announced. There will be a guest referee for the Hulk-Sid bout. Insiders say that it will be the Incredible Hulk himself, Lou Ferrigno.

Rick Flair hints that he has something on Randy Savage. Rumors have it that pictures of Flair with Elizabeth have something to do with it.

WCW

The "Taylor Made Man" sucker punched Marqus Alexander Presley during an interview. After, Elvis retaliated out of nowhere came Greg Valentine to aid Taylor.

It looks like the WCW has done it again. They are taking another WWF'er who was all but buried by Junior and turning him into a main player in the Federation. Rude, Steamboat, now Valentine. I hate to say it, but Vince is being outsmarted. The pieces seem to be falling into place for the WCW. I don't know if it's Kip Frey, Dusty Rhodes, or Jim Crockett, but somebody over there is making masterful decisions. In the game of business, the WCW is rapidly racing towards the top rung of the ladder. For Greg Valentine it is a great move. His career will now be revitalized again, much like "The Dragon."

During a match with Big Van Vader, the Stinger wrapped up his manager, Harley Race in a Scorpion Death Lock, when Race tried to interfere. I never thought we would see Harley in the ring again, but I guess I was wrong. Van Vader was counted out.

Later in the program, Race assisted Vinnie Vegas during an interview by handing him a roll of quarters to clock Big Josh with. Race then went on to kick the helpless lumberjack.

Harley wasn't done yet. During his match with Big Josh, Mr. Hughes was given a roll of quarters by Race, who then also caught the lumberjack. After Hughes pinned Josh, Ron Simmons came in to make the save.

The Steiners brought their pit bull, Arnold, for their match with the Young Pistols. WCW, you are doing so well, please don't start this animal nonsense. We see enough of that from the other guys. Let's bring Arnold back to Bide-a-Wee, and just stick to wrestling. Needless to say, the Steiners beat the Pistols.

Arn Anderson/Larry Zbyszko vs. Ricky Steamboat, and Barry Windham - 4 ex-WWF'ers. Do you see what's happening here. I'm telling you, Vince is going to let it slip away.

This match went back and forth until Rude, Eaton, Austin, Rhodes and Sting made it a mini-Battle Royal. Jim Ross never said how the match officially ended. I think the time limit expired.

VIDEO CORNER

by VINCE RUSSO

****EXCELLENT

*** GOOD

** FAIR

* POOR

WRESTLING CLASSICS - VOLUME I

Worldwide Entertainment Marketing - \$19.95

*** 1/2

This videocassette is an education. It represents what professional wrestling should be all about. Two well-trained athletes going head to head in the middle of the ring. The matches appear to be won or lost on natural ability, not because you unleashed a snake on your opponent. Every wrestling fan, no matter what age, should see this tape!

BUDDY ROGERS VS. PAT O'CONNOR - O'Connor, NWA champion defends his title in a two out of three falls with the "Nature Boy." 50,000+ fans showed up at Comminsky Park to witness this classic match. It's unbelievable to see fans go crazy when O'Connor applies a simple solid arm bar to Rogers. The stadium is packed with adults who seem to be sitting on the edge of their seats.

With the match tied at one fall a piece, Rogers wraps up O'Connor for the third fall after Pat missed on a flying cross-body block.

One thing I found amazing was that the entire match took place in the ring. Neither wrestler ever went outside of the ropes.

ANTONIO ROCCA/MIGUEL PEREZ VS. SKULL MURPHY/KARL VON HESS - Prior to watching this tape I had never seen Antonio Rocca wrestle. However, I had heard a million stories about him...now I know why. This wrestler is far superior than any wrestler in the business today. His ring charisma, along with his wrestling ability make him one of the greatest stars of all time. The "shoeless" Rocca and Perez go on to easily win this match.

MARK LEWIN VS. THE SHEIK in a loser leave town match.

It's interesting to see how the stars of today copy those from the past. The boots of the Sheik, the tactics of his manager Eddie "The Brain" Cretchman -- it's a shame that none of this seemed to rub off onto a certain promoter.

The Levin-Sheik match was nip & tuck all the way. You have to see the expressions on the faces of the fans when a disoriented Lewin stumbles around the crowd. It's priceless.

The match ends with the Sheik throwing a ball of fire in both the faces of Lewin and Cretchman. Since the referee didn't see this, Lewin loses the match by count out.

OTHER BOUTS: June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins; Dick The Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez.

ADDED ATTRACTION: An interview with wild Red Berry and The Fabulous Kangaroo.

COVERUP?

As we go to press, **PWSW** has learned that the Public Information Department of the St Louis Police is denying any knowledge of police sniffing dogs in the WWF locker room (see page 3) on Friday evening, February 14th. They do acknowledge being called into the arena over a situation involving a disgruntled employee. The WWF is also denying any DEA orchestrated police raid. However, a **PWSW** eyewitness source (who had bags sniffed) emphatically stated a raid took place. Three other eyewitnesses confirmed the story to Dave Meltzer of "The Wrestling Observer."

Our source told **PWSW** a man with a black coat and grey hair came up to me, asked to check my bag and had a dog sniff it. He then returned the bag and let me go.

Since no arrests were made some red-faced law enforcement officials probably want to deny a "botched" raid took place. The whole situation smells bad to this publication.

THE WRESTLING MENU

by **DONNY LAIBLE**

What gives? First it was Bret Hart dropping the Inter-Continental strap unexpectedly in Springfield, Massachusetts two days before a Pay Per View, not it's the Legion of Doom handing over their championship with no advance warning in Denver on February 8 one day before the FOX special -- I'm beginning to smell a pattern here...Speaking of the SATURDAY NIGHT MAIN EVENT, now I ask you -- did Brutus Beefcake **appear** to be just a little out of place? That hair, his pseudo-clothes and sneakers "The Barber" was sporting had me wondering if a try-out with Ringling Brothers had taken earlier that day. So pathetic...

Write this number down -- 609-848-5499. New Jersey Promoter Dennis Caraluzzo has two shows coming up in the garden state. March 6 in Union City and March 7 in Woodbury. I have been told Dick Murdoch is on both shows. For ticket info and the complete line-ups give Dennis a call...How about the hairdo's of Brute Forcez in the GWF. Which one of them stuck their finger in the electric outlet first?...Now I ask you, is there a harder working manager than Jimmy Hart?...For his own financial security let's hope the day never comes when Roddy Piper must decide to work at an auto dealership. "Hot Rod" can do many things great in an arena but selling isn't one of them.

Trivia time: What two other ring names has Greg Valentine used?...Joe Puccio of Richmond Hill, New York tells us the greatest match he's witnessed live took place in 1989 at Madison Square Garden between the Rockers and Brainbusters...Norman the Lunatic didn't work Sunny Beach's show on January 25 because he was in Mexico waiting for his working papers to come through so he could begin wrestling there...

Here's a couple more highly recommended wrestling schools you may wish to consider should you be thinking of taking the plunge into the toughest sport in the world. Al Costello's Wrestling Academy, 2266 Gulf to Bay Blvd, Lot #344, Clearwater, FL 34625, and The Malenko School of Wrestling, 8808 Plum Grove Court, Tampa, FL

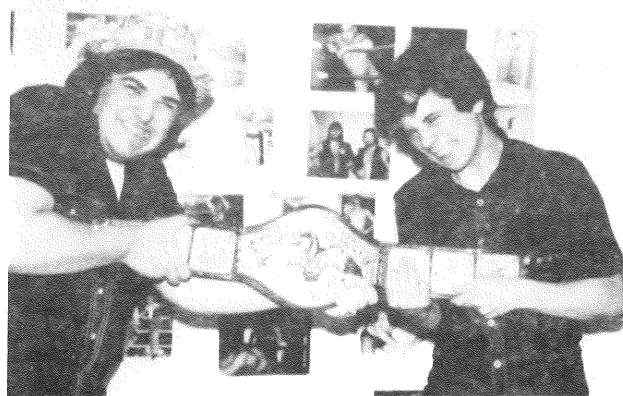
33634..."The Profile" Rip Hawk, who in his hey-day as a wrestler teamed with Big Swede Hanson now makes and distributes microwave popcorn on the cob. To try it, contact Rip for details at Box 6, Hereford, TX 79045.

Will Vinnie Vegas be managed by Wayne Newton on a PPV?...Time's up on the Valentine question. He used John Fargo and Baby Face Nelson prior to being billed as Greg Valentine...Stop wondering where Ilion is. For the answer you all have been losing sleep over we're 90 miles west of Albany and 50 miles east of Syracuse and a Kirby Puckett home run away from Cooperstown...Wouldn't it make sense for WCW to have a toll-free 800 line for fans to call for their merchandising catalog?

If Terry Gordy and Steve Williams re-enter WCW and The Road Warriors comeback as well, folks -- it's 1989 all over again which translates into great wrestling matches from the opener to the main event. And finally -- congratulations are in order to "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert and Madusa who were married a few weeks back. May the honeymoon last forever. Nobody had dedicated their life to wrestling more than Eddie has and hopefully one day he'll get to run WCW. The best part about Eddie -- he's never forgotten where he came from and the fan in him has never left.

Peter Wanat, PO Box 90, Clinton, CT 06413 has started the weekly Wrestling Fax Report. The news oriented (in most cases one page unless a PPV is on tap) weekly is set to begin on February 29. Call Peter at 201-744-6206 for details and supply him with a working fax number and your address. He informs us that the news will be transmitted after 11 pm (EST). A four month subscription runs \$35.00 but for readers of this newsletter \$30.00...Joe Hamilton, 3040 Hudson St, Baltimore, MD 21224 is looking to buy tapes of Goodhart shows and would like to hear from fans of Cactus Jack...Anthony Lewis, 110-27 178th St, Jamaica, NY 11433 is interested in obtaining videos of Bill Watt's UWF. He's especially in search of matches involving Missy Hyatt and Dark Journey. Anyone know the whereabouts of Dark Journey?...Charley Janczuk, 1000 Dean Ave. Bronx, NY 10465-1505 is looking for LJJN dolls of the Ultimate Warrior and Bret Hart in mint condition, plus the following WWF shirts in sizes medium or large: yellow Hulkamania, orange Ultimate Warrior, red Young Stallions.

Let me hear from you -- Donny Laible, PO Box 443, Ilion, NY 13357.



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MAT MEMORIES

by JOHN AREZZI

When did you first find out that pro wrestling was "fake." That the outcomes were predetermined? Today, when I hear the term "fake" it gets me as upset as when I heard it years ago. There is nothing fake about the bumps the guys take, the injuries, the pain, and the long term chronic injuries that result from a career in the ring. But, the winners and losers are predetermined, bottom line.

My school chums, my family, and other fans would tell me that wrestling was fixed. They told me this from the day I seriously began watching it until the day I finally believed it -- September 30, 1972. On that night Pedro Morales defended his WWWF title against my hero Bruno Sammartino. Earlier that day I was told how the match would turn out.

The Sammartino-Morales match was a big deal for me. It was **the** match. Hero against hero. Champion against legend. Friend vs. friend. The match was booked because of a clever TV angle which ran for three weeks on "Championship Wrestling". Sammartino appeared on TV to team with Pedro Morales. The first week the Sammartino-Morales "dream team" annihilated their opponents. The second week the same story -- easy victory. The third week the two were paired off against the WWWF tag team champions, Tory Tanaka and Mr. Fugi. During this encounter, which had me screaming throughout the match, the unthinkable happened. Morales and Bruno were both "blinded" by salt, which was thrown in their eyes by the hated Japs, Fugi and Tanaka. Blinded by the salt, the two were thrown into each other and started belting each other until they were separated.

For the next several weeks Vince McMahon, Jr. conducted interviews with both Bruno and Pedro. Each week the tone got angrier. The big announcement came on the tube that the two would meet for the title at Shea Stadium of September 30, 1972. There was no doubt in my mind that Bruno would wipe the floor with Pedro.

I waited on line the first day the tickets went on sale. I was about fifth on line to grab the whopping \$20 "ringside" seats.

The weeks dragged by until finally the big day was here. The first disappointment was that the weather was horrible. For a September night it felt like mid-January. It was windy and raining. My dad was driving us to Shea Stadium, and was yelling the whole way -- "Look at this weather, how could you watch rasslin in this weather? How could you pay \$20 to watch something that's fixed?" My ears were closed. And, as we drove into the parking lot, although the rain clouds appeared to touch the roof of the magnificent stadium, it seemed like the sun was shining down on me because Bruno was going to win.

We got to the gate before the door opened. It was here I got my second disappointment -- there were no seats on the field. I paid \$20 to sit in box seats and not be close to the action. Then my world was shattered. "They're going to curfew, it's gonna be a draw," said a photographer who "knew" some of the wrestlers. I couldn't believe my ears. This just could not be. Bruno had to win this match. **This** match couldn't be fixed. Not

this match.

Sitting in the cold, windy, pouring rain during the undercard was torture. When it was time for the main event I perked up, still hoping that the information I heard was not true.

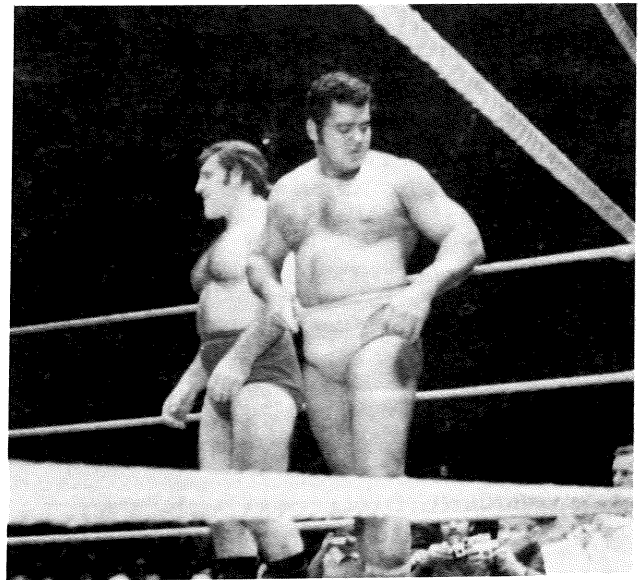
The match was a scientific wrestling fan's dream. The two count near pins, the submission holds, a run in by George Steele, all had the crowd, and me, screaming. But the clock ticked away. In New York there was an 11 pm curfew. No matches could go past that hour.

At 5 minutes to 11 it slowly sank in. The match was fixed. Wrestling is fake. At 11 pm the bell rang ending the match. A time limit draw. Bruno and Pedro both embraced -- a job well done. The fans cheered their sportsmanship. I didn't cheer. I booed. I left Shea Stadium, cold, wet, and miserable. I felt used. My buddies and I said we wouldn't pay another dime to go to wrestling again. I was finished with wrestling.

On TV an announcement was made about the next Madison Square Garden Show. It would be Bruno and Pedro teaming up against the team that broke up their friendship -- Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fugi.

I wound up going to that show. I didn't enjoy it as much as I normally would because the doubt was gone in my mind. This stuff was predetermined -- fixed. But, as the months progressed, I began to appreciate wrestling in a different way. The interviews, the bumps, the way these guys made crowds go nuts, that was worth seeing.

I think back to that cold, rainy late September night sometimes and still feel ripped off. I still think Bruno should have won!



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FANS' MAT MEMORIES

by VINCE DiPALMA
Farmingdale, NY

I especially enjoyed John Arezzi's **Mat Memories** in issue #6. John took me back quite a way, but I go back a little farther than John.

It all started for me in the late 50's. I too loved "Wrestling from Washington" on Channel 5 every Thursday and Saturday night with Ray Morgan. That program was a who's who of pro wrestling. Antonio Rocca, Ricki Starr (the barefoot ballerina), the Graham Brothers, Miguel Perez, Bruno Sammartino, Haystacks Calhoun -- I can go on and on. My father, older brother and I would be glued to the set each week. I also remember watching "Bedlam from Boston" each Friday night on Channel 9 and live wrestling with Lonny Starr every Tuesday evening from Sunnyside Gardens. Back in those days, title matches were a regular occurrence on the tube. Do you remember when Dennis James and Steve Allen used to be wrestling commentators? You're getting old if you do.

My favorite matches on "Wrestling from Washington" were the tag team wars between the Graham Brothers and Mark Lewin and Don Curtis. I remember feeling sad every time the golden boy Arnold Skogland got beat up. The one event I'll never forget was when Bruno lifted the 601 pound Haystacks off the mat into a bear hug. By the way, what was Haystack's favorite word? Why, **neighbor**, of course.

Yes, these memories certainly bring a tear to my eye. How I wish I could turn the clock back just one more time. Before steroids, before Hulk Hogan and before Vice McMahon, Jr.

Ah! Perchance to dream.

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FANS' MAT MEMORIES

by JOSEPH PUCCIO - RICHMOND HILL, NY

I am writing to tell you about my first Mat Memory. I am only 16 years old so my memory isn't from too long ago, but it still stands out in my mind.

It was in 1985 and my friend and I were bored. I was at his house and there was a videotape on the table that said Wrestlemania. His father had rented it and my friend decided to put it on. I didn't tell him but I really wasn't interested. Little by little the tape got more and more interesting. I became mesmerized by the moves of the wrestlers. The Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. vs. Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff bout is the one I remember best. That day I went home and asked my parents if we could go to see a wrestling show live. They agreed and I became a real wrestling fan that day.

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